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J.S. Smith  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Barbieri et al.  
Serial No: 09/733,626  
Confirmation No: 2410  
Filed: December 8, 2000  
For: SLIDING DEVICE  
  
Examiner: Avraham H. Lerner  
Art Unit: 3611

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 2 day of September, 2003.

  
Carole A. Boelitz Reg. No. 48,958

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THE DUTY OF  
DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

PART I: Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement has been filed more than three months after the filing date of this application and after the mailing date of the first Office Action, but before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in this application.

1. The fee of \$180.00 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is enclosed.

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PART II: Information Cited

The Applicant hereby makes of record in the above-identified application the information listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified). The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the references.

The references cited on the attached Form PTO-1449 were cited in a Search Report for the counterpart European Application No. EP 01 12 8472.6, a related European Application No. EP 01 12 8471.8, or a Japanese Utility Model Technical Assessment (UMTA) for a related Japanese Utility Model Application No. 7950/2001. A copy of the Search Reports and UMTA with translation are attached for the Examiner's information.

PART III: Explanation of Non-English Language References and Remarks Concerning Other Information Cited

The International Search Report of a corresponding European application referred to several foreign documents. The International Searching Authority (ISA) considers German reference DE 79 00 648 to be particularly relevant by itself to claims having similar scope to claims in the present application. The relevance of German reference DE 79 00 648 may be further determined from its drawings

The Japanese references were indicated in the UMTA as referential documents showing the general technical level. The relevance of the Japanese references may be further determined from their drawings.

PART IV: Remarks

Documents cited anywhere in the Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed unless otherwise indicated. It is respectfully requested that:

1. The Examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;
2. The enclosed form PTO-1449 be signed by the Examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application;

3. The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants make no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

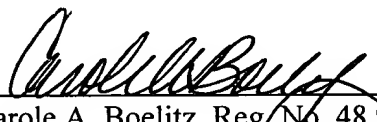
By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants make no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

Notwithstanding any statements by the Applicants, the Examiner is urged to form his own conclusion regarding the relevance of the cited information.

An early and favorable action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Barbieri et al., Applicants*

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Docket No. B0932.70158US00  
Date: September 2, 2003